

NATIONAL HEALTHY SCHOOLS  
DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 27, 2010*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1280, "Expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the goals and ideals of National Healthy Schools Day."

Let me begin by thanking my colleague Representative PAUL TONKO for introducing this piece of legislation into the House of Representatives as it is important that we diligently work towards the improvement of deteriorating public schools across the nation and also work towards the improvement of construction techniques in schools.

The issue of environmental hazards in schools has been a growing problem over the last several decades. It is unfortunate that in schools across the nation investigators can find unchecked renovations, pesticide misapplications, unsafe drinking water, and indoor air pollutants such as mold infestations.

It is unreasonable to think that our children can receive the best possible learning environment when they are expected to learn under these types of conditions.

There are also a wide range of problems stemming from poor air quality and ventilation problems in schools. It has consistently been shown that these types of air quality problems can lead to poor concentration, respiratory illnesses, learning difficulties, and even cancer in students.

Today there are approximately 55,000,000 children and 7,000,000 adults who spend their days in the Nation's more than 125,000 public and private schools. Students and teachers also spend an average of 30 to 50 hours per week in school.

These numbers equate to nearly 20 percent of our nation's population spending their days in schools across the country—many of which are currently facing deterioration in the quality of their buildings while in the face of massive budget cuts. Therefore it is critical that we work together to seek comprehensive solutions to the trend of deteriorating schools in our nation.

A recent study showed that approximately one-third of public school principals reported that some environmental factors in their schools have interfered with classroom instruction. This report highlights an increasingly troubling trend among schools of deteriorating environmental factors.

In fact school facilities with poor building quality can result in lower test scores, poor attendance, and health problems for students and staff. These problems are only worsened for the nearly 9 percent of American students who are known to have asthma. Asthma is also the leading cause of absence from school and is aggravated by poor air quality and ventilation problems in schools.

To meet these challenges, I believe that we should begin working with school districts across the nation towards the implementation of healthy and high performance schools.

These types of schools would be designed to improve indoor environments while reducing

energy and maintenance costs. They would also provide for an improvement in the quality of ambient light, would reduce exposures to toxic substances and would provide a healthier and safer learning environment for children.

Healthy and high performance schools are designed with specific environmental factors in mind, such as pollutant source controls, proper ventilation mechanisms, and moisture and mold controls. It is imperative that school districts in our nation recognize the importance of these new construction and maintenance techniques and work to ensure the improvement of student and teacher health across the board.

By officially designating April 26, 2010 as 'National Healthy Schools Day,' we in Congress will be sending a strong message to students and teachers across the nation that we intend to provide healthy and safe buildings for students to learn in. We will also be sending a message to school districts across the nation that it is vitally important to build new schools with renewable resource materials and energy efficient appliances.

We must always ensure that schools and children receive all the necessary tools for their continued growth. Furthermore it is vitally important that we continue to work with state and local agencies including independent school districts across the nation for the implementation of these measures in public schools.

I would like to again thank my colleague Representative PAUL TONKO for introducing H. Res. 1280. I ask my colleagues for their support of this legislation as well as their continued support for children, teachers and public schools across the nation.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H. Res. 1280 and the rule.

HONORING SAUNDERS OMNI-  
PRESENT NETWORK INSPIRING  
AMERICA'S YOUTH, INC. FOR  
THEIR EXTRAORDINARY WORK  
IN THE COMMUNITY**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 2010*

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a nonprofit organization that serves my district, Saunders Omnipresent Network Inspiring America's Youth, Inc.

S.O.N.I.A.Y. has demonstrated an overwhelming amount of commitment to serving the Long Island community. My constituents rely on our nonprofits for the vital services they offer. S.O.N.I.A.Y.'s continuous acts of selfless efforts are admirable.

I am proud to honor Saunders Omnipresent Network Inspiring America's Youth, Inc. for their extraordinary work in the community.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH AD-  
VISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF  
SERVICE**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 2010*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me

in congratulating the 2009–2010 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year, 45 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their communities, their country and their Congress. These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation. As young leaders within their communities and their schools, these students boldly represent the promise and the hope we all have for their very bright future.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

To ensure that the blessing of freedom is passed from one generation to the next, the members of the CYAC spent time interviewing a veteran and documenting the experience for the "Preserving History Project." Today I'm proud to submit the brief summaries provided so the patriotic service of our dedicated veterans and the thoughtful work of the CYAC may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for making this year and this group a success. It is not a coincidence that this congressional tribute celebrates two generations of service. Each of you is trusted with the precious gift of freedom.

You are the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America.

The summary follows:

Sergeant Archie Lee Dyer joined the Marine Corps on November 22, 1967. He was only 19 years old at the time, but he was courageous enough to begin his journey as a soldier in the Vietnam War. As a granddaughter of Archie Dyer, I have gotten to know his military career well. It's amazing to sit and listen to the stories of my sweet, humble' and brave Pawpaw's journey as a Marine. His life has been shaped greatly because of his time spent in the Vietnam War and I am very lucky to have a brave grandfather who was willing to potentially sacrifice his life far our nation. Although he has created a successful pool company and had many other great successes in life, the one that can be most appreciated is his success as a Marine. I have learned so much about my Pawpaw by doing this interview. I have realized how passionate he is about protecting our nation by the way he continually holds his head high while telling stories of the "good old days" when he was a Marine. Although his time in the Vietnam War was a very trying experience, my Pawpaw never regrets his time spent braving the war and protecting our great nation. I am so proud of my Pawpaw for all that he has done and I am grateful to have had this experience to learn more about this man that I love and respect so much.—Caitlyn Woolum.